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CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

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1.   A method of formatting an electronic mail message, comprising:

storing one or more recipient profiles, wherein the one or more recipient profiles identify an electronic mail

10 message format for a corresponding recipient;

identifying a recipient of an electronic mail message; and

formatting the electronic mail message based on a recipient profile corresponding to the identified recipient.

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2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more recipient profiles include a recipient group format setting corresponding to a plurality of recipients, and wherein the recipient group format setting identifies electronic mail

20 format settings that are common to the plurality of recipients.

3.   The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more recipient profiles include a domain name category format

25 setting corresponding to a plurality of recipients, and wherein the domain name category format setting identifies electronic mail format settings that are common to the plurality of recipients.

30 4.   The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic mail message is directed to a plurality of designated recipients, and wherein formatting the electronic mail message includes

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identifying a set of compatible electronic mail format settings from among the electronic mail format settings of the designated recipients.

5 5.   The method of claim 4, wherein if a set of compatible electronic mail format settings cannot be identified from among the electronic mail format settings of the designated recipients, a default set of electronic mail format settings is used to format the electronic mail message.

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6.   The method of claim 4, wherein the electronic mail format settings include at least one of closing information, stationery, whether to use spell check, a font, a font color, a font size, and a line spacing.

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7.   The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic mail message is directed to a plurality of designated recipients, and wherein the electronic mail message is replicated into a different version of the electronic mail message for each of

20 the plurality of designated recipients based on the one or more recipient profiles such that the content of each version of the electronic mail message is the same but the format is specific to the electronic mail format of a corresponding recipient profile.

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8.   The method of claim 7, wherein the electronic mail message is replicated in response to a user entering a command to transmit the electronic mail message.

30 9.   The method of claim 7, wherein the electronic mail message is replicated in response to a command entered by a

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user, and wherein the user may review the versions of the electronic mail message prior to transmitting them.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic mail
5 message is directed to more than one designated recipient, and wherein formatting the electronic mail message includes identifying a common set of electronic mail format settings for the more than one designated recipient, and wherein identifying a common set of electronic mail format settings
10 includes:
identifying at least one of a group set of electronic mail format settings, a domain name category set of electronic mail format settings, and an individual set of electronic mail format settings for each of the at least one
15 designated recipient;
comparing each set of electronic mail format settings of each of the at least one designated recipient to each set of electronic mail format settings of each other recipient of the at least one designated recipient to identify
20 matching sets of electronic mail format settings; and
using the matching sets of electronic mail format settings to reformat the electronic mail message.

11. A method of customizing an electronic mail message
25 based on settings for an intended recipient, comprising:
receiving an electronic mail message;
identifying at least one recipient of the electronic mail message;
identifying at least one electronic mail message format
30 for the at least one recipient; and
reformatting the electronic mail message based on the at least one electronic mail message format.

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12. The method of claim 11, wherein the at least one recipient is categorized into a recipient group, and wherein the recipient group has electronic mail format settings that
5 are common to all of the recipients in the recipient group.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the at least one recipient is categorized into a domain name category, and wherein the domain name category has electronic mail format
10 settings that are common to all of the recipients in the domain name category.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein the electronic mail message is directed to a plurality of recipients, and
15 wherein reformatting the electronic mail message includes identifying a set of compatible electronic mail message format settings from among the electronic mail message format settings of the plurality of recipients.

20 15. The method of claim 14, wherein if a set of compatible electronic mail message format settings cannot be identified from among the electronic mail message format settings of the designated recipients, a default set of electronic mail message format settings is used to reformat the electronic
25 mail message.

16. The method of claim 11, wherein the electronic mail message format settings include at least one of closing information, stationery, whether to use spell check, a font,
30 a font color, a font size, and a line spacing.

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17. The method of claim 11, wherein the electronic mail
message is directed to a plurality of recipients, and
wherein the electronic mail message is replicated into a
different version of the electronic mail message for each of
5 the plurality of recipients based on the electronic mail
message format settings for each of the plurality of
recipients such that the content of each version of the
electronic mail message is the same but the format is
specific to the electronic mail message format settings of a
10 corresponding one of the plurality of recipients.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the electronic mail
message is replicated in response to a user entering a
command to transmit the electronic mail message.
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19. The method of claim 17, wherein the electronic mail
message is replicated in response to a command entered by a
user, and wherein the user may review the versions of the
electronic mail message prior to transmitting them.
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20. The method of claim 11, wherein reformatting the
electronic mail message includes identifying a common set of
electronic mail message format settings for the at least one
designated recipient, and wherein identifying a common set
25 of electronic mail message format settings includes:
    identifying at least one of a group set of electronic
mail message format settings, a domain name category set of
electronic mail message format settings, and an individual
set of electronic mail message format settings for each of
30 the at least one recipient;
    comparing each set of electronic mail message format
settings of each of the at least one recipient to each set

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of electronic mail message format settings of each other
recipient of the at least one recipient to identify matching
sets of electronic mail message format settings; and
 using the matching sets of electronic mail message
5 format settings to reformat the electronic mail message.

21. A method of customizing an electronic mail message
based on settings for an intended recipient, comprising:
 storing electronic mail format settings for a plurality
10 of possible recipients, the electronic mail format settings
designating an electronic mail format for a recipient that
is different from an electronic mail format of another
recipient;
 generating an electronic mail message for at least one
15 designated recipient of the plurality of possible
recipients; and
 customizing the electronic mail message according to
the electronic mail format settings for the recipient.

20 22. An apparatus for customizing an electronic mail message
based on settings for an intended recipient, comprising:
 an interface that receives an electronic mail message;
and
 an electronic mail message formatting device coupled to
25 the interface that identifies at least one recipient of the
electronic mail message, identifies at least one electronic
mail message format for the at least one recipient, and
reformats the electronic mail message based on the at least
one electronic mail message format.
30
 23. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the at least one
recipient is categorized into a recipient group, and wherein

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the recipient group has electronic mail format settings that are common to all of the recipients in the recipient group.

24. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the at least one
5 recipient is categorized into a domain name category, and wherein the domain name category has electronic mail format settings that are common to all of the recipients in the domain name category.

10 25. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the electronic mail message is directed to a plurality of recipients, and wherein the electronic mail message formatting device reformats the electronic mail message by identifying a set of compatible electronic mail message format settings from
15 among the electronic mail message format settings of the plurality of recipients.

26. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein if a set of compatible electronic mail message format settings cannot be
20 identified from among the electronic mail message format settings of the designated recipients, the electronic mail message formatting device uses a default set of electronic mail message format settings to reformat the electronic mail message.
25
27. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the electronic mail message format settings include at least one of closing information, stationery, whether to use spell check, a font, a font color, a font size, and a line spacing.
30
28. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the electronic mail message is directed to a plurality of recipients, and

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wherein the electronic mail message formatting device replicates the electronic mail message into a different version of the electronic mail message for each of the plurality of recipients based on the electronic mail message

5 format settings for each of the plurality of recipients such that the content of each version of the electronic mail message is the same but the format is specific to the electronic mail message format settings of a corresponding one of the plurality of recipients.

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29. The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the electronic mail message is replicated in response to a user entering a command to transmit the electronic mail message.

15 30. The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the electronic mail message is replicated in response to a command entered by a user, and wherein the user may review the versions of the electronic mail message prior to transmitting them.

20 31. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the electronic mail message formatting device reformats the electronic mail message by identifying a common set of electronic mail message format settings for the at least one recipient, and wherein the electronic mail message formatting device

25 identifies a common set of electronic mail message format settings by:

identifying at least one of a group set of electronic mail message format settings, a domain name category set of electronic mail message format settings, and an individual

30 set of electronic mail message format settings for each of the at least one recipient;

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comparing each set of electronic mail message format settings of each of the at least one recipient to each set of electronic mail message format settings of each other recipient of the at least one recipient to identify matching

5   sets of electronic mail message format settings; and

using the matching sets of electronic mail message format settings to reformat the electronic mail message.

32.   A computer program product in a computer readable

10   medium for customizing an electronic mail message based on settings for an intended recipient, comprising:

first instructions for receiving an electronic mail message;

second instructions for identifying at least one

15   recipient of the electronic mail message;

third instructions for identifying at least one electronic mail message format for the at least one recipient; and

fourth instructions for reformatting the electronic

20   mail message based on the at least one electronic mail message format.

33.   The computer program product of claim 32, wherein the at least one recipient is categorized into a recipient

25   group, and wherein the recipient group has electronic mail format settings that are common to all of the recipients in the recipient group.

34.   The computer program product of claim 32, wherein the

30   at least one recipient is categorized into a domain name

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category, and wherein the domain name category has electronic mail format settings that are common to all of the recipients in the domain name category.

5 35. The computer program product of claim 32, wherein the electronic mail message is directed to a plurality of recipients, and wherein the fourth instructions for reformatting the electronic mail message include instructions for identifying a set of compatible electronic
10 mail message format settings from among the electronic mail message format settings of the plurality of recipients.

36. The computer program product of claim 35, wherein the fourth instructions further include instructions for using a
15 default set of electronic mail message format settings to reformat the electronic mail message if a set of compatible electronic mail message format settings cannot be identified from among the electronic mail message format settings of the designated recipients.
20

37. The computer program product of claim 32, wherein the electronic mail message format settings include at least one of closing information, stationery, whether to use spell check, a font, a font color, a font size, and a line
25 spacing.

38. The computer program product of claim 32, wherein the electronic mail message is directed to a plurality of recipients, and wherein the fourth instructions for
30 reformatting the electronic mail message includes instructions for replicating the electronic mail message into a different version of the electronic mail message for

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each of the plurality of recipients based on the electronic
mail message format settings for each of the plurality of
recipients such that the content of each version of the
electronic mail message is the same but the format is
5   specific to the electronic mail message format settings of a
corresponding one of the plurality of recipients.

39.   The computer program product of claim 38, wherein the
electronic mail message is replicated in response to a user
10 entering a command to transmit the electronic mail message.

40.   The computer program product of claim 38, wherein the
electronic mail message is replicated in response to a
command entered by a user, and wherein the user may review
15 the versions of the electronic mail message prior to
transmitting them.

41.   The computer program product of claim 32, wherein the
fourth instructions for reformatting the electronic mail
20 message include instructions for identifying a common set of
electronic mail message format settings for the at least one
designated recipient, and wherein the instructions for
identifying a common set of electronic mail message format
settings include:
25   instructions for identifying at least one of a group
set of electronic mail message format settings, a domain
name category set of electronic mail message format
settings, and an individual set of electronic mail message
format settings for each of the at least one recipient;
30   instructions for comparing each set of electronic mail
message format settings of each of the at least one
recipient to each set of electronic mail message format

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settings of each other recipient of the at least one
recipient to identify matching sets of electronic mail
message format settings; and

instructions for using the matching sets of electronic
5 mail message format settings to reformat the electronic mail
message.